

United States District Court  
Central District of California

CC: FISCAL

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA vs.

Defendant TODD MICHAEL FICETOakas: Todd M. FicetoDocket No. CR 13-00183(A)-VAP-2Social Security No. 9 9 4 7  
(Last 4 digits)

## JUDGMENT AND PROBATION/COMMITMENT ORDER

In the presence of the attorney for the government, the defendant appeared in person on this date.

|           |           |             |
|-----------|-----------|-------------|
| MONTH     | DAY       | YEAR        |
| <u>07</u> | <u>06</u> | <u>2020</u> |

## COUNSEL

Gary S. Lincenberg and Thomas V. Reichert, retained

(Name of Counsel)

## PLEA

 GUILTY, and the court being satisfied that there is a factual basis for the plea.  NOLO  CONTENDERE  NOT GUILTY

## FINDING

There being a finding/verdict of GUILTY, defendant has been convicted as charged of the offense(s) of:

**Conspiracy to Commit Securities Fraud and Wire Fraud, in violation of 18 U.S.C. § 1349, as charged in Count 1 of the First Superseding Indictment;****Securities Fraud, Aiding and Abetting, in violation of 18 U.S.C. § 1348 and 18 U.S.C. § 2, as charged in Counts 2-8 of the First Superseding Indictment;****Investment Advisor Fraud, Aiding and Abetting, in violation of 15 U.S.C. § 80b-6, 15 U.S.C. § 80b-17 and 18 U.S.C. § 2, as charged in Counts 23-24 of the First Superseding Indictment;****Money Laundering Conspiracy, in violation of 18 U.S.C. § 1956(h), as charged in Count 30 of the First Superseding Indictment;****Unlawful Monetary Transactions, Aiding and Abetting, in violation of 18 U.S.C. § 1957 and 18 U.S.C. § 2, as charged in Counts 31-33 & 36-37 of the First Superseding Indictment;****Obstruction of Justice, in violation of 18 U.S.C. § 1505, as charged in Count 34 of the First Superseding Indictment****False Statements, Causing an Act to be Done, in violation of 18 U.S.C. § 1001(a)(2) and 18 U.S.C. § 2(b), as charged in Count 35 of the First Superseding Indictment.**JUDGMENT  
AND PROB/  
COMM  
ORDER

The Court asked whether there was any reason why judgment should not be pronounced. Because no sufficient cause to the contrary was shown, or appeared to the Court, the Court adjudged the defendant guilty as charged and convicted and ordered that:

It is ordered that the defendant shall pay to the United States a special assessment of \$1,800, which is due immediately. Any unpaid balance shall be due during the period of imprisonment, at the rate of not less than \$25 per quarter, and pursuant to the Bureau of Prisons' Inmate Financial Responsibility Program.

It is ordered that the defendant shall pay restitution to Absolute Funds in the total amount of \$215,851,031 pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 3663A.

It is ordered that the total amount of \$14,954,265.50 already paid to Absolute Funds, shall be credited towards the restitution order.

The Court finds from a consideration of the record that the defendant's economic circumstances allow for restitution payments pursuant to the following schedule: A partial payment of \$25,000 shall be paid immediately. The

balance shall be due during the period of imprisonment, at the rate of not less than \$25 per quarter, and pursuant to the Bureau of Prisons' Inmate Financial Responsibility Program. If any amount of the restitution remains unpaid after release from custody, monthly payments of at least \$100 or 10 percent of his gross monthly income, whichever is greater, shall be made during the period of supervised release. These payments shall begin 30 days after the commencement of supervision.

The defendant shall be held jointly and severally liable with co-participants Florian Wilhelm Jurgen Homm, Colin Heatherington, and Craig Heatherington (Docket No. 2:13CR00183) for the amount of restitution ordered in this judgment. The victims' recovery is limited to the amount of their loss and the defendant's liability for restitution ceases if and when the victims receive full restitution.

Pursuant to Guideline §5E1.2(a), all fines are waived as the Court finds that the defendant has established that he is unable to pay and is not likely to become able to pay any fine.

The defendant shall comply with General Order No. 20-04, except for condition 14.

The Court has found that the property identified in the preliminary order of forfeiture is subject to forfeiture. The preliminary order is incorporated by reference into this judgment and is final.

Pursuant to the Sentencing Reform Act of 1984, it is the judgment of the Court that the defendant, Todd Michael Ficeto, is hereby committed on Counts 1-8, 23-24, and 30-37 of the First Superseding Indictment to the custody of the Bureau of Prisons for a **term of 72 months**. This term consists of 60 months on each of Counts 23-24 and 30-37 of the First Superseding Indictment, and 72 months on each of Counts 1-8, all such terms to be served concurrently.

Upon release from imprisonment, the defendant shall be placed on supervised release for a **term of five years**. This term consists of five years on each of Counts 1 through 8 and two years on each of Counts 23, 24, and 30 through 37 of the First Superseding Indictment, all such terms to run concurrently under the following terms and conditions:

1. The defendant shall comply with the rules and regulations of the United States Probation & Pretrial Services Office and General Order 20-04, with the exception of condition 14, including the conditions of probation and supervised release set forth in Section III of General Order 18-10.
2. During the period of community supervision, the defendant shall pay the special assessment, and restitution, in accordance with this judgment's orders pertaining to such payment.
3. The defendant shall cooperate in the collection of a DNA sample from the defendant.
4. The defendant shall refrain from any unlawful use of a controlled substance. The defendant shall submit to one drug test within 15 days of release from custody and at least two periodic drug tests thereafter, not to exceed eight tests per month, as directed by the Probation Officer.
5. The defendant shall not engage, as whole or partial owner, employee or otherwise, in any business involving investment programs or any other business involving the solicitation of funds or cold-calls to customers without the express approval of the Probation Officer prior to engaging in such employment. Further, the defendant shall provide the Probation Officer with access to any and all business records, client lists, and other records pertaining to the operation of any business owned, in whole or in part, by the defendant, as directed by the Probation Officer.

6. The defendant shall not be employed in any position that requires licensing and/or certification by any local, state, or federal agency without the prior written approval of the Probation Officer.
7. The defendant shall apply all monies received from income tax refunds to the outstanding Court-ordered financial obligation. In addition, the defendant shall apply all monies received from lottery winnings, inheritance, judgments and any anticipated or unexpected financial gains to the outstanding Court-ordered financial obligation.
8. As directed by the Probation Officer, the defendant shall provide to the Probation Officer: (1) a signed release authorizing credit report inquiries; (2) federal and state income tax returns and a signed release authorizing their disclosure and (3) an accurate financial statement, with supporting documentation as to all assets, income, expenses, and liabilities of the defendant.
9. The defendant shall submit his person, property, house, residence, vehicle, papers, computers [as defined in 18 U.S.C. § 1030(e)(1)], cell phones, other electronic communications or data storage devices or media, office, or other areas under the defendant's control, to a search conducted by a United States Probation Officer or law enforcement officer. Failure to submit to a search may be grounds for revocation. The defendant shall warn any other occupants that the premises may be subject to searches pursuant to this condition. Any search pursuant to this condition will be conducted at a reasonable time and in a reasonable manner upon reasonable suspicion that the defendant has violated a condition of his supervision and that the areas to be searched contain evidence of this violation.

It is further ordered that the defendant surrender himself to the institution designated by the Bureau of Prisons at or before **12 noon, on Monday, July 20, 2020**. In the absence of such designation, the defendant shall report on or before the same date and time, to the United States Marshals Service at the District Court in Columbia, South Carolina.

The Court recommends that the defendant be designated to FCI Edgefield located in South Carolina.

The Court recommends that the defendant be placed in a facility where he can participate in the BOP's Residential Drug Abuse Program. The Court further recommends that the defendant be considered for participation in the Bureau of Prison's 500-hour Residential Drug Abuse Program (RDAP).

Defendant's bond is exonerated upon surrender.

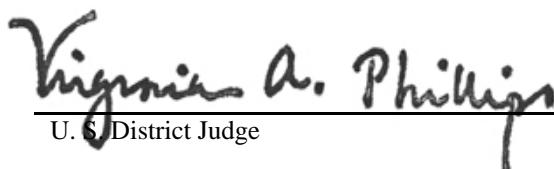
In the interests of justice and upon government's motion, the remaining counts are ordered dismissed.

Defendant is informed of his right to appeal.

In addition to the special conditions of supervision imposed above, it is hereby ordered that the Standard Conditions of Probation and Supervised Release within this judgment be imposed. The Court may change the conditions of supervision, reduce or extend the period of supervision, and at any time during the supervision period or within the maximum period permitted by law, may issue a warrant and revoke supervision for a violation occurring during the supervision period.

July 7, 2020

Date

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
U. S. District Judge

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It is ordered that the Clerk deliver a copy of this Judgment and Probation/Commitment Order to the U.S. Marshal or other qualified officer.

Clerk, U.S. District Court

July 7, 2020

Filed Date

By /s/ Christine Chung

Deputy Clerk

The defendant must comply with the standard conditions that have been adopted by this court (set forth below).

### **STANDARD CONDITIONS OF PROBATION AND SUPERVISED RELEASE**

While the defendant is on probation or supervised release pursuant to this judgment:

1. The defendant must not commit another federal, state, or local crime;
2. The defendant must report to the probation office in the federal judicial district of residence within 72 hours of imposition of a sentence of probation or release from imprisonment, unless otherwise directed by the probation officer;
3. The defendant must report to the probation office as instructed by the court or probation officer;
4. The defendant must not knowingly leave the judicial district without first receiving the permission of the court or probation officer;
5. The defendant must answer truthfully the inquiries of the probation officer, unless legitimately asserting his or her Fifth Amendment right against self-incrimination as to new criminal conduct;
6. The defendant must reside at a location approved by the probation officer and must notify the probation officer at least 10 days before any anticipated change or within 72 hours of an unanticipated change in residence or persons living in defendant's residence;
7. The defendant must permit the probation officer to contact him or her at any time at home or elsewhere and must permit confiscation of any contraband prohibited by law or the terms of supervision and observed in plain view by the probation officer;
8. The defendant must work at a lawful occupation unless excused by the probation officer for schooling, training, or other acceptable reasons and must notify the probation officer at least ten days before any change in employment or within 72 hours of an unanticipated change;
9. The defendant must not knowingly associate with any persons engaged in criminal activity and must not knowingly associate with any person convicted of a felony unless granted permission to do so by the probation officer. This condition will not apply to intimate family members, unless the court has completed an individualized review and has determined that the restriction is necessary for protection of the community or rehabilitation;
10. The defendant must refrain from excessive use of alcohol and must not purchase, possess, use, distribute, or administer any narcotic or other controlled substance, or any paraphernalia related to such substances, except as prescribed by a physician;
11. The defendant must notify the probation officer within 72 hours of being arrested or questioned by a law enforcement officer;
12. For felony cases, the defendant must not possess a firearm, ammunition, destructive device, or any other dangerous weapon;
13. The defendant must not act or enter into any agreement with a law enforcement agency to act as an informant or source without the permission of the court;
14. As directed by the probation officer, the defendant must notify specific persons and organizations of specific risks posed by the defendant to those persons and organizations and must permit the probation officer to confirm the defendant's compliance with such requirement and to make such notifications;
15. The defendant must follow the instructions of the probation officer to implement the orders of the court, afford adequate deterrence from criminal conduct, protect the public from further crimes of the defendant; and provide the defendant with needed educational or vocational training, medical care, or other correctional treatment in the most effective manner.

The defendant must also comply with the following special conditions (set forth below).

#### **STATUTORY PROVISIONS PERTAINING TO PAYMENT AND COLLECTION OF FINANCIAL SANCTIONS**

The defendant must pay interest on a fine or restitution of more than \$2,500, unless the court waives interest or unless the fine or restitution is paid in full before the fifteenth (15th) day after the date of the judgment under 18 U.S.C. § 3612(f)(1). Payments may be subject to penalties for default and delinquency under 18 U.S.C. § 3612(g). Interest and penalties pertaining to restitution, however, are not applicable for offenses completed before April 24, 1996.

If all or any portion of a fine or restitution ordered remains unpaid after the termination of supervision, the defendant must pay the balance as directed by the United States Attorney's Office. 18 U.S.C. § 3613.

The defendant must notify the United States Attorney within thirty (30) days of any change in the defendant's mailing address or residence address until all fines, restitution, costs, and special assessments are paid in full. 18 U.S.C. § 3612(b)(1)(F).

The defendant must notify the Court (through the Probation Office) and the United States Attorney of any material change in the defendant's economic circumstances that might affect the defendant's ability to pay a fine or restitution, as required by 18 U.S.C. § 3664(k). The Court may also accept such notification from the government or the victim, and may, on its own motion or that of a party or the victim, adjust the manner of payment of a fine or restitution under 18 U.S.C. § 3664(k). See also 18 U.S.C. § 3572(d)(3) and for probation 18 U.S.C. § 3563(a)(7).

Payments will be applied in the following order:

1. Special assessments under 18 U.S.C. § 3013;
2. Restitution, in this sequence (under 18 U.S.C. § 3664(i), all non-federal victims must be paid before the United States is paid):
  - Non-federal victims (individual and corporate),
  - Providers of compensation to non-federal victims,
  - The United States as victim;
3. Fine;
4. Community restitution, under 18 U.S.C. § 3663(c); and
5. Other penalties and costs.

#### **CONDITIONS OF PROBATION AND SUPERVISED RELEASE PERTAINING TO FINANCIAL SANCTIONS**

As directed by the Probation Officer, the defendant must provide to the Probation Officer: (1) a signed release authorizing credit report inquiries; (2) federal and state income tax returns or a signed release authorizing their disclosure and (3) an accurate financial statement, with supporting documentation as to all assets, income and expenses of the defendant. In addition, the defendant must not apply for any loan or open any line of credit without prior approval of the Probation Officer.

The defendant must maintain one personal checking account. All of defendant's income, "monetary gains," or other pecuniary proceeds must be deposited into this account, which must be used for payment of all personal expenses. Records of all other bank accounts, including any business accounts, must be disclosed to the Probation Officer upon request.

The defendant must not transfer, sell, give away, or otherwise convey any asset with a fair market value in excess of \$500 without approval of the Probation Officer until all financial obligations imposed by the Court have been satisfied in full.

These conditions are in addition to any other conditions imposed by this judgment.

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**RETURN**

I have executed the within Judgment and Commitment as follows:

Defendant delivered on \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_

Defendant noted on appeal on \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_

Defendant released on \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_

Mandate issued on \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_

Defendant's appeal determined on \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_

Defendant delivered on \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_

at \_\_\_\_\_  
the institution designated by the Bureau of Prisons, with a certified copy of the within Judgment and Commitment.

United States Marshal

By \_\_\_\_\_

Deputy Marshal

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

**CERTIFICATE**

I hereby attest and certify this date that the foregoing document is a full, true and correct copy of the original on file in my office, and in my legal custody.

Clerk, U.S. District Court

By \_\_\_\_\_

Deputy Clerk

\_\_\_\_\_  
Filed Date

**FOR U.S. PROBATION OFFICE USE ONLY**

Upon a finding of violation of probation or supervised release, I understand that the court may (1) revoke supervision, (2) extend the term of supervision, and/or (3) modify the conditions of supervision.

These conditions have been read to me. I fully understand the conditions and have been provided a copy of them.

(Signed) \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_  
Defendant

\_\_\_\_\_  
U. S. Probation Officer/Designated Witness Date